



THE AMERICAN LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2008

From the Publisher

Dear Friend:

Greetings from the American Library!

Americans go to the polls on November 4, 2008 to choose the 44th President of the United States. U.S. voters will have the opportunity to vote for president, vice president, congressional representatives, state and local officials and ballot initiatives. This is the first election in 80 years with no incumbent president or vice president running for office. This democratic exercise happens following months of campaigning and public debate.

We thought that this was the right time to provide information on U.S. Elections to our patrons. This issue of our Newsletter includes - information about Presidential candidates and other related important source materials.

In the coming months, the U.S. Consulate General will be organizing a series of events such as lectures, discussions, quiz and other related programs. I encourage you to participate in all these events. Please contact the American Library to know more about the events and how you can participate.

I take this opportunity to personally invite you to the Library and look forward to your comments and suggestions on this issue.

Wesley Robertson
Information Officer

2008 Presidential Candidates



John McCain, currently a senator representing Arizona, would be the oldest president of the United States if elected. Serving in the Senate since 1986, he is known for championing legislation that reformed elections financing and lobbying laws.

McCain, whose father and grandfather served in the U.S. Navy, had a 22-year naval career. He served in Vietnam, where he was a prisoner of war for more than five years and received many naval honors for his service. McCain was also a presidential candidate in 2000, but lost the nomination to George W. Bush.

McCain was born August 29, 1936, in the Panama Canal Zone, where his father was serving in the U.S. Navy. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy. McCain's wife, Cindy McCain, has been active in many international humanitarian organizations. He has seven children, including a son who recently returned from serving in Iraq and a daughter adopted from Mother Theresa's orphanage in Bangladesh.

John McCain's Official Web Site: <http://www.johnmccain.com/>



Barack Obama, a first-term senator from Illinois, would be the first African-American president of the United States if elected. Serving in the Senate since 2004, Obama introduced bipartisan legislation what allows Americans to learn online how their tax dollars are spent. He also serves on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, which helps oversee the care of soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Previously, Obama worked as a community organizer and civil rights attorney in Chicago, and served for eight years in the Illinois State Senate.

Obama was born August 4, 1961, in Hawaii and has lived in many places, including Indonesia. His mother was from Kansas and his father from Kenya. Obama attended Columbia University in New York and earned a law degree at Harvard University in Massachusetts. He and his wife, Michelle Obama, who also worked as a lawyer and later for the University of Chicago, have two young daughters.

Barack Obama's Official Web Site :
<http://www.barackobama.com/index.php>

When are general elections held?

They are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November. The 2008 general election will be held on November 4.

Why are general elections held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November?

For much of U.S. history, America was a predominantly agrarian society. Lawmakers considered their convenience when choosing a November date for elections – after harvest time but before winter weather made travel difficult – as the easiest month for farmers and rural workers to go to the polls.

Because many rural residents lived a significant distance from the polls, Tuesday, rather than Monday, was selected

to allow those who attended Sunday church services to begin travel after worship and still reach their destinations in time to cast their votes.

Lawmakers wanted to prevent Election Day from falling on the first of November for two reasons. First, November 1 is All Saints Day, a day on which Roman Catholics are obligated to attend Mass. Also, merchants typically balanced the accounts from the preceding month on the first of each month.

Source: Frequently asked Questions-

<http://www.america.gov/st/pubs-english/2007/October/20071009122854hmnietsua7.178903e-03.html>

Useful terms

Blue state: Blue state is a term used to refer to a U.S. state where the majority of voters usually support Democratic candidates.

Electoral College: The president and vice president are selected through the electoral college system, which gives each state the same number of electoral votes as it has members of Congress. The District of Columbia also gets three electoral votes. Of the total 538 votes, a candidate for president must receive 270 to win.

Lame duck: The term lame duck refers to an elected official who has lost an election, or soon will be leaving office, during the period between the election and the date a successor will take over. Such an individual is in a weakened position politically due to the impending expiration of his or her term.

Red state: Red state refers to a U.S. state where the majority of voters support Republican candidates. See also blue state.

Super-Duper Tuesday: A phrase coined for the 2008 election, when many states, in an attempt to have more influence on the outcome of the race, have moved their primaries or caucuses to earlier in the year. This resulted in at least 20 states choosing to hold their primaries or caucuses on Tuesday, February 5, 2008, giving that day the name "Super-Duper Tuesday."

Source: <http://www.america.gov/st/pubs-english/2007/October/20071009122700hmnietsua0.2381555.html>

Holidays

July 4	Independence Day (American)
August 15	Independence Day (Indian)
September 1	Labor Day (American)
September 3	Vinayakar Chaturthi (Indian)

Resources: Books

Bjornlund, Eric. **Beyond Free and Fair: Monitoring Elections and Building Democracy** / Eric Bjornlund. Washington, D.C. Baltimore, MD: Woodrow Wilson Center Press: John Hopkins University Press, 2004. (324.65 BJO).

Edwards, George C. **Why the Electoral College is Bad for America** / George C. Edwards, III. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, c2004. (324.63 EDW)

Henderson, Harry. **Campaign and Election Reform** / Harry Henderson. New York, NY: Facts On File, c2004. (324.63 HEN).

Lewis, Charles. **The Buying of the President, 2004: Who's Really Bankrolling Bush and his Democratic Challengers--and What they expect in return** / Charles Lewis. New York, NY: Perennial, c2004. (324.7 LEW).

McCaffrey, Paul. **U.S. Election System** / edited by Paul McCaffrey. New York, NY: H.W. Wilson, 2004. (324 USE).

McCain, John. **Faith of my Fathers** / John McCain with Mark Salters. New York: HarperPerennial, 2000. (973.9 MCC)

Obama, Barack. **Dreams from my father: a story of race and inheritance** / Barack Obama. New York: Three Rivers Press, 2004. (973.0496073 OBA)

Peters, Charles. **Five Days in Philadelphia: The Amazing "We Want Wilkie!" Convention of 1940 and How it Freed FDR to Save the Western World** / Charles Peters. New York, NY: Public Affairs, c2005. (324.2734 PET).

Elections in Brief



A background guide to the entire U.S. electoral system, from federal, state, local, and primary elections to related topics such as polling and the role of the parties and the media.

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/elections-in-brief/>

Websites

The Democratic Party <http://www.democrats.org>

Republican National Committee <http://www.rnc.org>

C-Span Politics <http://www.c-span.org/Politics/>

CNN <http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2008/>

Election Day <http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2008/electionday/>

Federal Election Commission: Campaign Finance Law
<http://www.fec.gov/law/feca/feca.shtml>

The Gallup Poll <http://www.galluppoll.com/>

U.S. Department of State, Foreign Press Center: Elections 2008 <http://fpc.state.gov/fpc/c21250.htm>

U.S. Elections: Guide to the 2008 Election <http://uspolitics.america.gov/uspolitics/elections/index.html>

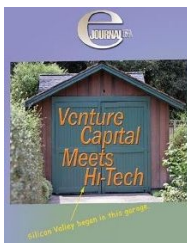
U.S. National Archives: U.S. Electoral College
<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/>

Presidential Libraries

In the recent times most Presidents have founded libraries to house Presidential papers, gifts, and memorabilia, as well as films, tapes and clippings relating to their terms in office. Please access the following site for more details.

Source: <http://www.archives.gov/presidential-libraries/visit/>

Venture Capital Meets Hi-Tech



This eJournal explores the phenomenon that drives uncouneted Americans — and now citizens of other nations — to create fledgling “start-up” businesses that explore and exploit the latest developments in high technology. It also investigates the closely related “venture capital” phenomenon. How investors match their funds to (hopefully) winning ideas is a big part of the start-up story.

Source: <http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa.html#0508>

Dates to Remember

July 2	Thurgood Marshall: Birth Anniversary
July 2	Civil Rights Act of 1964: Anniversary
July 4	American Independence Day
September 4	Labor Day
September 11	9/11 Attack on America

Publications in Brief



Democracy <http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/democracy-in-brief/>



Literature

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/literature-in-brief/>



History

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/historybrf/index.htm>



Economy

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubseconomy-in-brief/page9.html>

EVENTS



University of Madras, Administrative Staff College Refresher Course participants at the Library- June 6, 2008

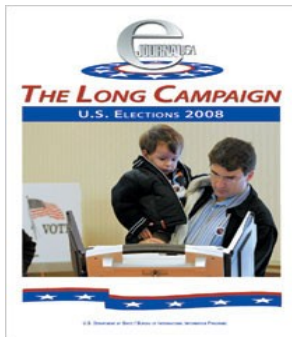


Library Staff Ms. Meena Reddy addressing students at an orientation at Sri Sarada College for Women, Salem July 08, 2008



Library Staff Ms. Gowri Ravindranath addressing students and faculty at Erode Arts College on July 10, 2008

The Long Campaign: U.S. Elections 2008



This edition of *eJournal USA* presents an introduction to the upcoming 2008 U.S. elections. In these elections, U.S. voters will have the opportunity to vote for president and vice president, congressional representatives, state and local officials, and ballot initiatives. The journal describes aspects of this election which make it different from most recent elections and includes a pro-con debate of the Electoral College.

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa.html#1007>

Internet vs. Library as Resource

There is a general feeling among scholars and the public that Libraries are no longer needed because of free access to the Internet. Our Reference Librarians have provided some points about where the library wins over the Internet and how to evaluate information on the Internet.

INTERNET	LIBRARY
<u>Authenticity</u> Resources may or may not be authentic as information can be posted by any one, anytime and anywhere in the world.	Provides information using authentic resources - books, scholarly and general journals, government and think tank publications.
<u>Access</u> Easy access – anywhere anytime and no geographical barriers. Information is not logically organized and no standardization is followed.	Access only during stipulated timings and requires a personal visit, telephone or email. Resources are organized logically which ensures easy location. Provides access to primary resources.
<u>Assistance</u> Does not have the advantage of assistance by experienced and professional Librarians.	Provides an opportunity to interact with professionally skilled Librarians who can guide in searching materials, which is likely to enhance quality research output.
<u>Timeliness</u> Although current information may be available, many Internet sites are dated, not updated and there is no process of checking for accuracy.	Library constantly updates its collection and tries to provide the current information through books, magazines, commercially subscribed online databases and other publications which are highly reliable.
<u>Material</u> Although it has enormous amounts of information and publications, not all print resources are available. Information available in print may not be available online on the Internet.	Some information can only be accessed through print sources which the library can provide. To this day books and other print materials are considered as powerful tools, easy to handle and can be read any where any time. Library also provides access to Information available online through databases, not available on the Internet.

If you visit the Library, our Reference Librarians will be glad to provide you more information.